

High Schools That Work/Making Middle Grades Work October 2007 Updates

Following is a summary of information that was covered during our meeting last week in Mitchell. There's also new information on how to access grant funds (see #'s 4, 7, and 8).

Note that the Annual Progress report deadlines are different for high schools and middle schools (see #1 and #3).

If you have any questions, please call or email me at 280-0650 or mkucker@edec.org.

Marsha

1. Annual Reports

Just a reminder – if you haven't completed your report, please try to get in today. The information below is taken directly from this link:

<http://www.sreb.org/programs/hstw/Assessment/assessindex.asp>

2007 HSTW Annual Progress Report

Online submission of the 2007 HSTW Annual Progress Report is scheduled to begin July 2, 2007. The Annual Report will be due **September 28, 2007**. The purpose of the later deadline is to allow schools to gather the necessary data and information that becomes available in the fall. For those schools and school districts needing to complete the Annual Report prior to the end of the current school year, please follow the link below to submit your Annual Report.

[2007 Annual Progress Report](#)

Once completed, visit the following link to confirm that your 2007 annual report was received.

[2007 Annual Progress Report Confirmation](#)

To access your school's 2006 Annual Progress Report, please click on the link below.

[2006 Annual Progress Report](#)

2. HSTW Assessment

Here's the link for information on ordering the HSTW assessment:

<http://www.sreb.org/programs/hstw/Assessment/assessindex.asp>

Please note order deadline and testing dates.

The *HSTW* Assessment, administered to seniors, is used by *HSTW* states, districts and schools to document school improvement efforts. It is comprised of three subject tests (reading, mathematics and science) coupled with a student survey. This assessment provides comprehensive school-level data that disaggregate students' achievement by their perceptions of school and classroom experiences. These results have given schools, districts and states a unique opportunity to determine what is and is not working to increase student achievement. The assessment is administered by all *HSTW* sites in even-numbered years.

SREB and ETS have been working to revise the *HSTW* Assessment to provide additional value to participating schools and students. The revised *HSTW* Assessment, in addition to continuing to serve its purpose as a measure of continuous school improvement, will also serve as a measure of student college- and workplace-readiness.

The document below details the test development process and identifies major changes for the 2008 *HSTW* Assessment.

[Introducing the New *HSTW* Assessment](#)

The schedule for the 2008 *HSTW* Assessment is as follows:

Order Window: September 3 - October 31, 2007

Student Assessment Window: January 7 - February 1, 2008

Teacher Survey Window: January 7 - February 15, 2008

The cost for the 2008 *HSTW* Assessment is \$2,460 for a minimum of 60 students and \$41 per additional student beyond 60.

[What Is the *HSTW* Assessment?](#) (assessment components, directions for student selection)

[Ordering the 2008 *HSTW* Assessment](#)

[The *HSTW* Award of Educational Achievement and Student Reports](#)

[Calendar of Events in the 2008 Assessment](#)

[2008 Assessment Administration Materials](#)

[At a Glance: The 2006 High Schools That Work Assessment](#) (PDF File)

- [*A Guide for Using the HSTW Assessment Report to More Deeply Implement School Reform*](#)
- [*Workbook: Using the HSTW Assessment Report to More Deeply Implement School Reform*](#)

***High Schools That Work* Teacher Survey**

The *HSTW* Teacher Survey is administered during even-numbered years as part of the *HSTW* Assessment.

3. MMGW Progress Report Form and Assessment

Here's the link for accessing the Annual Progress Report form:
<http://www.sreb.org/programs/MiddleGrades/Assessment/assessmentindex.asp>

2007 *MMGW* Annual Progress Report

Online submission of the 2007 *MMGW* Annual Progress Report is scheduled to begin October 1, 2007. The Annual Report will be due **November 30, 2008**. Please check back here for further information.

To access your school's 2006 Annual Progress Report, please click on the link below.

[2006 *MMGW* Annual Progress Report](#)

Assessment and Using Data

A critical element of the *Making Middle Grades Work* comprehensive improvement framework is the use of data. Participating states, districts and schools continually use data on student, school and teacher performance to affirm or revise school and classroom practices that will improve student achievement.

***MMGW* sites collect data in several forms, including:**

- Middle Grades Assessment and Survey of Student Experiences (produced by the Educational Testing Service)
- *MMGW* Teacher Survey
- *MMGW* Principal Survey
- Middle Grades Annual Progress Report

***Making Middle Grades Work* Assessment**

The next Middle Grades Assessment, administered to eighth-grade students is comprised of three subject tests (reading, mathematics and science) coupled with a student survey. The assessment provides comprehensive school-level data that disaggregate students' achievement by their perception of school and classroom experiences. The results have given schools, districts and states a unique opportunity to document school improvement efforts and determine what is and is not working to increase student achievement. The assessment is administered by all *MMGW* sites in even-numbered years.

The schedule for the 2008 Middle Grades Assessment is as follows:

Order Window: October 1 - November 30, 2007
Student Assessment Window: February 4 - March 7, 2008
Teacher Survey Window: February 4 - March 21, 2008

The cost for the 2008 Middle grades Assessment is \$2,580 for a minimum of 60 students and \$43 per additional student beyond 60.

[2008 Assessment Summary Letter for School Leaders](#)

[Order the 2008 Middle Grades Assessment](#)

[2008 Assessment Administration Materials](#)

4. Grant Funds and How to Access

Funds for partial HSTW/MGW assessment costs are available to you through 2 different grant sources – a grant through House Bill 1171 to East Dakota Cooperative and a grant awarded to the SD Department of Education through the Great Plains Foundation. If you are a middle school site (Chester, Deuel, Pierre, Sturgis, Tea, Vermillion, Watertown) you may bill for middle and high school both. Here's how you access these funds:

- a. Send an invoice on your letterhead for \$800 (\$1600 for schools with both middle and high school programs) to East Dakota Cooperative – 715 E 14th Street – Sioux Falls SD 57104 – Attn: Marsha
- b. The Department of Education will be contracting with each school individually - \$700 is available for high school programs (\$1400 for schools with both middle and high school programs). I have provided DOE with contact information for each school – the principals name and school address. Brenda Lemburg is our contact information for this process (773-4463).

Total cost of the assessment is approximately \$2500.

5. Professional Development

Mark your calendars! Fliers have been sent to you earlier. Contact me if you need more information.

October 24-26
October 24

Writing to Win Training
Senior Project Training

Mitchell
Mitchell

Ivy Alford will be coming back to South Dakota in January. She'll be facilitating a one day Literacy workshop and a one day workshop on Developing a Course Syllabi on January 7 and 8. On January 9 and 10, she

will be leading a training session in Integrating Math in CTE Programs.
More details to follow!

6. Group Email Lists

Let me know if there are others that should be added to this list. I also have a 'leadership list' that includes site coordinators and school administrators.

7. Senate Bill 168 Schools and Carryover

We are trying to close out the books from the Senate Bill 168 grants. Please invoice us as soon as possible for expenses. They should be sent here to me at East Dakota. (Costs for the HSTW assessment are an allowable expenditure.)

8. Cornbelt Cooperative Schools and Grant Funds

Nine schools districts that are members of the Cornbelt Cooperative will receive \$2500 each to implement High Schools That Work and/or Senior Projects. Contact Mike Keeley at 271-0218 for billing information.

9. Resources

Do you have a Teachers As Advisor Program in your school? Are you thinking of implementing one? This publication provides a good overview of what the program is and roles and responsibilities.

http://www.sreb.org/programs/hstw/publications/2007pubs/07V08w_online_newsletter_march2007.pdf